



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY
STEVEN F. LUKAN, DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 1, 2014

Contact:
Dale Woolery (515) 725-0310

Iowans Safely Dispose of Record Amount of Unused Prescription Drugs

DES MOINES – Last Saturday was a record day for Iowans participating in the semiannual National Prescription Drug Take Back to prevent medicine abuse.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports 123 Iowa community collection sites gathered 8,840 pounds—or more than four tons—of unused medicines during last weekend's event. Both the number of collection locations and the amount of prescription drugs dropped off are the most ever for a single Take Back event in Iowa.

“The good news is an increasing number of Iowans understand the need to properly use and keep track of prescription medicines, and the importance of disposing of unused medicines in a secure manner,” said Steve Lukan, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. “Because the medicine cabinet is a target for a lot of people who abuse medicines, everyone who participates in Take Back helps prevent prescription drug abuse, as well as potential environmental contamination.”

Since the start of the Take Back program in the fall of 2010, and over the course of eight twice-yearly events, Iowans have safely disposed of 21.5 tons of unused prescription drugs. Nationally during the first seven Take Backs, more than 1,700 tons of obsolete medicines have been collected from Americans participating in Take Back events across the U.S. The DEA is still tallying nationwide results from last weekend.

Iowans can get more information on how to prevent or get help for prescription drug abuse at <http://www.IowaMedicineTLC.org>.

